

Appl. S.N. 09/681,882
Amdt. Dated Oct. 24, 2005
Reply to Office Action of Aug. 23, 2005

RD-27,281

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed August 23, 2005 wherein claims 1-9, 12, and 14-20 were rejected under 35 USC §103 (a) as being obvious in view of Hanson et al. (US 2002/156558) and Cardillo et al. (US5917408); and claims 10, 11 and 13 were rejected under USC §103 (a) over Hanson et al. in view of Cardillo and Maus et al. (US 2002/128864). In this amendment, no new matter has been added.

Claims 1-20 remain pending in this application. Reconsideration in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The rejection of claims 1-9, 12 and 14-20 under 35 USC 103(a) is respectfully traversed. As previously amended, claims 1, 14 and 20 now recite a portable computer with communication capability disposed on the field asset and adapted to store a maintenance history wherein the maintenance history comprising records of repairs, maintenance and parts for the field asset.

The Hanson reference does not disclose each element of the present invention as claimed in claims 1, 14 and 20. Specifically, the Hanson reference does not teach or suggest the recited on-board computing device disposed on a given field asset and adapted to store a maintenance history and a plurality of sources of maintenance instructions, as specifically recited by Applicants' amended claims and as defined by Applicants' specification. The Hanson reference instead teaches a monitoring system for a vehicle including an operator interface coupled to the vehicle which runs a diagnostic algorithm that asks a series of yes/no questions of an operator for use in diagnosing a problem, a plurality of sensors for monitoring sensor information such as temperature, time and the like, and a wireless communication device coupled to the operator interface and sensors for communicating information to a remote central data center. Further, nowhere does the Hanson reference show, teach or disclose storing maintenance history information, such as repairs, maintenance records and parts of a given field asset as also stated by the Examiner in the Office Action. Applicants' respectfully submit that the Cardillo reference does not overcome the deficiencies of the Hanson reference.

It is well-established that in order to show a *prima facie* case of obviousness, there cited references must suggest some desirability or motivation to combine the cited references. The mere fact that two references can be combined is insufficient to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. In the present Office Action, Applicants interpret that the proposed combination is to combine the maintenance management system of Hanson with the maintenance history records of Cardillo. As stated above, the Hanson reference does not teach or suggest the recited on-board computing device disposed on a given field asset nor does the Hanson reference show, teach or disclose Applicants' recited retrieval of maintenance history and records for a given field asset and Cardillo merely discloses

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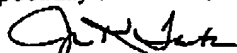
a maintenance alert device for storing maintenance information relating to a vehicle or machine. There is no teaching in Cardillo of a communication device. There is no reasonable combination of these cited references that would make Applicants' invention obvious except for hindsight and using Applicants' specification as a guide. Thus, Applicants' respectfully submit that claims 1-9, 12, 14 and 14-20 are patentable over the Hanson and Cardillo references. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 USC 103(a) is respectfully solicited.

Applicants further respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 10-11 and 13 under 35 USC 103(a) over Hanson in view of Cardillo and Maus et al. As discussed with reference to the rejection under 35 USC §103 (a) above, the Hanson and Cardillo references do not show or suggest all of elements of Applicants' recited invention. The Maus reference does not overcome the deficiencies of the Hanson and Cardillo references. The Maus reference merely discloses a computerized data acquisition system including multimedia formats. Nowhere does the Maus reference teach, disclose or suggest a maintenance management system as recited in Applicants' claims. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that there would be no reasonable combination of the Hanson, Cardillo and Maus references by one skilled in the art that would obtain Applicants' invention, particularly as recited in amended independent claim 1, from which the rejected claims 10-11 and 13 depend. Therefore, Applicants' respectfully submit that claims 10-11 and 13 are allowable and requests that the rejections under 35 USC §103 (a) be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendment and for the reasons set out above, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is needed to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,


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